

NINETY-SECOND YEAR.

ST. LOUIS, MO., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1900.

ROBERTS TAKES A BOLD STAND.

Dramatically Declares That the House May Exclude, but Cannot Shame Him.

Littlefield of Maine, Who Succeeded the Late Mr. Dingley, Makes a Speech That May Defeat the Majority and Carry the Minority Report.

Washington, Jan. 23.—This was an eventful day in the House over the case of Richard H. Roberts, the Mormon representative from Utah. The galleries were packed to suffocation, while the floor was filled with the spectators, after listening attentively to the arguments of Mr. Taylor of Ohio and Mr. Littlefield of Maine for the adoption of the majority and minority reports, respectively, of the special committee that investigated the case, rendered last night in behalf of the House.

Mr. Roberts was very active in the handling of his case, and at times exhibited dramatic qualities. Taking advantage of the time allowed by the House in the committee to the motion of ordering him to be expelled, he made a speech in which he declared that he would not be expelled, but would stand on his own feet. He declared that he would not be expelled, but would stand on his own feet. He declared that he would not be expelled, but would stand on his own feet.

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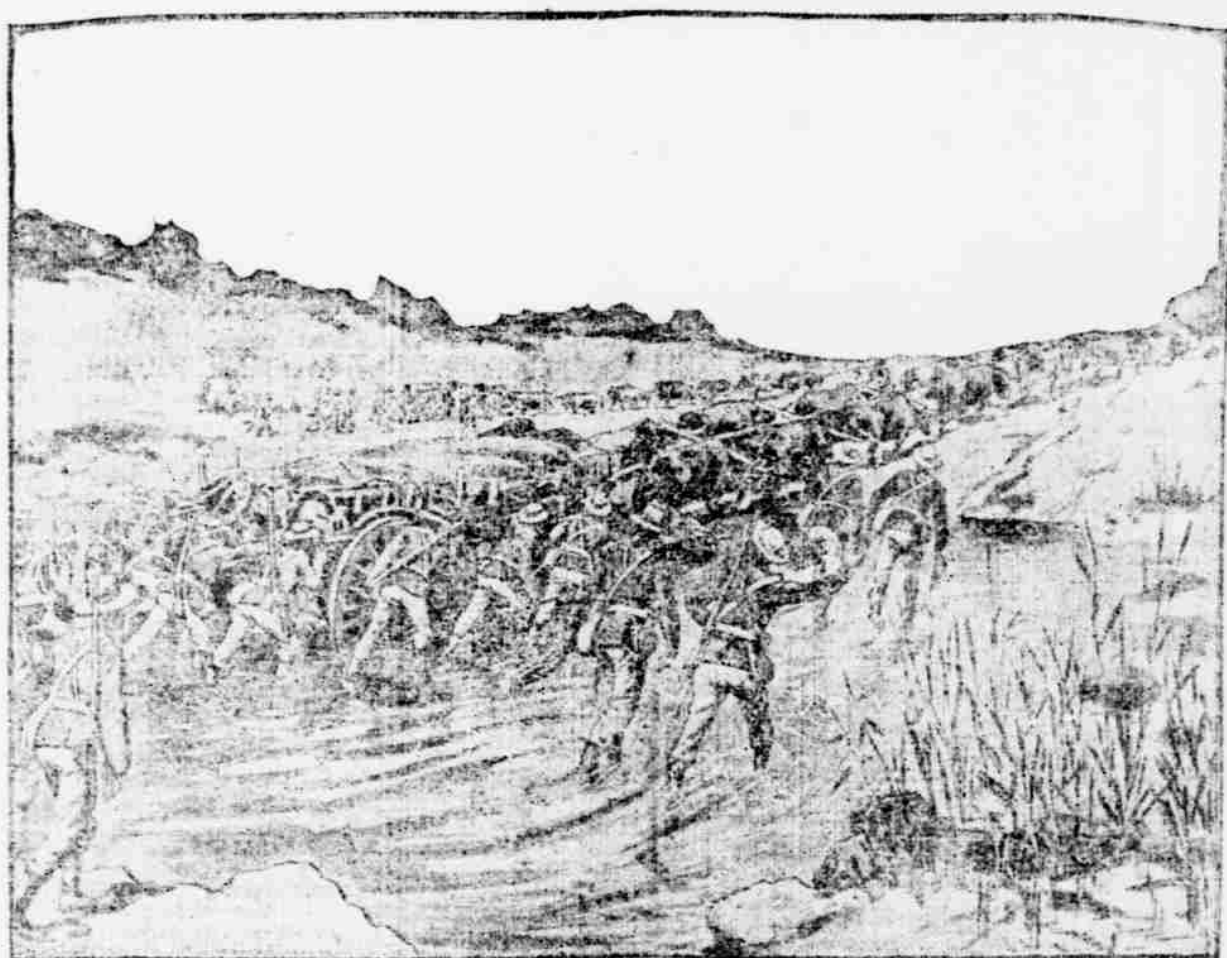
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HOW THE BRITISH NAVAL BRIGADE TOOK THEIR HEAVY GUNS TO THE FRONT.

LEADING TOPICS —IN— TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

For Missouri—Fair Wednesday; fair and colder Thursday; southerly, shifting to westerly winds.
For Illinois—Fair Wednesday; partly cloudy Thursday, with rain or snow in extreme northern portion; southerly winds.
For Arkansas—Fair Wednesday and Thursday; southerly winds.

1. Warren to Point His War Through News From Boer Headquarters.
2. Buller's Order for a Night Attack Considered a Last Resort.
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ADMINISTRATION ALARMED.

Webster Davis's Trip Causes Comment in Washington.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The visit of Webster Davis, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, to South Africa and his intention to visit Pretoria were the subjects of discussion at the Cabinet meeting today. Davis's trip is giving the administration great concern, and it is believed that the President will take steps to prevent him from visiting the Boers. The administration is alarmed at the possibility of Davis's trip, and it is believed that the President will take steps to prevent him from visiting the Boers.

YEOMANRY STAFF BLUNDERS.

Incapacity May Cause the Movement to Fail.

London, Jan. 23.—The indignation and disgust expressed at the blunders and incapacity of the Yeomanry staff, to whom is ascribed the failure threatening to overwhelm the movement which started with such a fanfare of trumpets, are increasing daily.

NATAL NEWS FROM THE BOERS' HEADQUARTERS.

White's Headquarters in Ladysmith Shattered by a Shell—Joubert and Steyn Together on the Firing Line.

Boer Head-Quarters, Ladysmith, Monday, Jan. 23.—A battle has been raging along the Olifants River road, since Saturday between the Boers under Pretorius and 6000 British.

The fighting is in full swing at Spion Kop. The Boers under Botha and Cronje have been sent thither. The British elsewhere are only making a reconnaissance of the Boer positions. President Steyn was under fire at the foremost position of the Boer States.

The quarters of General White and Hunter were smashed this morning by a shot from "Long Tom." It is not known whether any of the occupants of the buildings were killed.

Boer Camp, Upper Tugela River, Sunday, Jan. 22.—After Commandant Botha checked the British advance yesterday morning, it was expected that there would be no further action until tomorrow. This afternoon signs were discerned of an intended movement in the British northern camp.

When the heat, which was more fruitful than any yet experienced, had worn off, the British cannon started in full force, and the infantry advanced in extended order.

Generals Botha and Cronje held the high hills, over which the road to Ladysmith passed. When the Boers fired, a pandemonium of sound filled the air. The volleys of the British guns, the sharp crack of the Boer rifles, and the whistles of the Boer bullets were heard.

Field Cornet Ernst Emilio was killed, nor did the Boers escape unscathed.

At the central position, Swartkop, the other road to Ladysmith crosses the hills. The British advanced from low kopjes on the banks of Tugela unopposed. Then they entered the zone of Boer fire, and although their guns kept up the usual terrible racket, the advance was stopped and the British had to retreat to their old positions.

Commandant Viljoen and two burghers were knocked senseless by an explosion of British shells. But Commandant Viljoen recovered. Field Cornet Houtman was wounded, and on refusing to surrender, was shot.

The British loss probably was insignificant. They counted that expended bullets in the field, and expended bullets with Lee-Metfords. The Boers admit that expiring Boers were occasionally found, but they deny the charge of expiring Boers.

Not a shot was fired by the Boers with cannon or rifle at the Swartkop position this side of the river.

One thousand infantry and a battery advanced into the second row of low hills between the republicans and the river. Heavy cannonading proceeded at a range of 2000 yards, but the Boers maintained the silence of death. This must have staggered the British, as the advance was stopped, and this morning they had retired to their old positions.

Head-Quarters, Ladysmith, Natal, Saturday, Jan. 22.—The sixty-ninth birthday of General Buller was celebrated by General Buller making a reconnaissance to force toward the Drakensberg Mountains and turning the British advance after a short engagement.

General Buller accompanied President Steyn to the Free State laagers south of Ladysmith. The President was in high spirits. He proposes to make a tour of all the laagers.

Ladysmith sent up many colored rockets last night. (The Boer movement on the British advance above referred to may have reference to General Warren's forward fighting, in which, according to advices from British sources received yesterday, the Boers were on the defensive almost the entire day Sunday, and once, when they attempted to outflank the British left, and were significantly checked. It probably, however, refers to Warren's attempt to march north, which failed. According to yesterday's dispatches Warren was forced to turn back and make a frontal attack, whereas his original plan was to turn the Boers' right flank.)

The Boers lost four hundred men killed and twenty wounded. The British loss probably was insignificant.

The bombardment of the Boer positions from Swartkop was resumed yesterday, chiefly from a battery brought across the river. In the afternoon, the cannonading became exceedingly brisk and under cover thereof the infantry advanced in three lines to second row of kopjes, which they occupied at nightfall, but later they retired to their old position.

During the night, a score of shells were fired by the British, and a balloon was sent up to eye out the Boer positions.

The naval guns resumed the bombardment this morning from a new position, but without result.

The three British positions are old Chieveley Camp, near Colenso; the central position at Swartkop Drift, where they held both banks of the river, and a point higher up in the direction of Zandkops. There they have bridged the river and established an immense communication.

At Pretoria, Sunday, Jan. 22.—A dispatch from Colenso, of Thursday, January 19, says a patrol of 20 men, under Field Cornet Opperman, while scouting, was surrounded, but succeeded in fighting its way back. It is reported that four men were killed and that thirty were wounded and made prisoners.

Communication with the different positions has been kept up under the ordeal of this campaign, the casualties resulting from this being, however, that these occurring at Colenso. One of the shells from the naval guns killed a father and son, Free States, who were chatting at the time. Strangely, neither had any visible wounds. Pretoria, Sunday, Jan. 22.—A dispatch from Colenso, of Thursday, January 19, says a patrol of 20 men, under Field Cornet Opperman, while scouting, was surrounded, but succeeded in fighting its way back. It is reported that four men were killed and that thirty were wounded and made prisoners.

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BULLER ORDERS A NIGHT ATTACK.

Desperate Effort in the Darkness to Dis- lodge Boers.

CANNONADE FAILS.

Warren Used His Big Guns, but Without Effect.

GAINED NO GROUND.

Three British Assaults Were Repulsed Monday.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Jan. 23.—(Copyright, 1900, by W. R. Hearst.)—Lord Wolseley, the Marquis of Lansdowne, A. J. Balfour and all the high officials of the War Office are at their posts, anxiously awaiting news of the night assault on Spion Kop, which Buller ended last night he was about to make.

He is doing the most dangerous thing in modern warfare—making an attack on a fortified hill, under cover of darkness. Bloody fighting is going on this night. British soldiers are climbing the sides of a rocky mountain, digging their fingers and toes into the crevices, sliding, slipping back, falling, facing a deadly fire, which they are unable to answer, trusting only to their bayonets; commands leaderless, confused in the dark African night, striving only to reach the top and stick the cold steel into the bodies of its grim defenders.

It is no wonder that the War Office is all lit up. For Buller's army must do or die in this fight.

BULLER'S REPORT.

London, Jan. 23, 2:15 a. m.—Contrary to the announcement made shortly before midnight by the War Office that nothing further would be issued until Wednesday forenoon, the following dispatch from General Buller, dated Spearman's Camp, January 23, 6:20 p. m., has just been posted:

"Warren holds the position he gained two days ago. In front of him, at about 1,400 yards, is the enemy's position, west of Spion Kop. It is on higher ground than Warren's position, so it is impossible to see into it properly.

"It can be approached only over bare, open slopes, and the ridges held by Warren are so steep that guns cannot be placed on them. But we are shelling the enemy's position with howitzers and field artillery placed on lower ground, behind infantry.

"The enemy is replying with Creusot and other artillery. In this duel the advantage rests with us, as we appear to be searching his trenches and his artillery fire is not causing much loss."

"An attempt will be made tonight to seize Spion Kop, the slant of which forms the left of the enemy's position facing Trenchard's Drift, and which divides it from the position facing Potgieter's Drift. It has considerable command over all the enemy's intrenchments."

The earlier dispatches posted at the War Office, though dated Spearman's Camp to day, contain nothing but reports of casualties. General Buller reports that the wounded January 20 included:

Second Lancashire—Captains Dod, Whyte and Ormond and Lieutenant Campbell.

West Surrey—Captains Baillie (since dead) and Warden and Lieutenants Smith and Webb.

York and Lancaster Regiment—Lieutenants Halford and Duckworth.

Staff Captain Dallas.

Field Marshal Lord Roberts reports from Cape Town that the war situation is unchanged.

BRITISH THRICE REPULSED.

Pretoria, Monday, via Lorenzo Marquez, Tuesday, Jan. 23.—Ac-

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GENERAL WAR NEWS.
A report from General Buller, dated at Spearman's Camp, last night, says that General Warren and his forces are engaged in a battle at Spion Kop, and that Warren will make a night attack on the Boer position on Spion Kop, which would command Buller's main line of defense.
The outcome of this attack is not known, but it is believed that this attack has been ordered as a last resort.
The report that Warren holds a position which he cannot maintain has been refuted by the fact that he has been engaged in a battle at Spion Kop, and that he has been repulsed three times.
General Buller's position is that he is doing the most dangerous thing in modern warfare—making an attack on a fortified hill, under cover of darkness. Bloody fighting is going on this night. British soldiers are climbing the sides of a rocky mountain, digging their fingers and toes into the crevices, sliding, slipping back, falling, facing a deadly fire, which they are unable to answer, trusting only to their bayonets; commands leaderless, confused in the dark African night, striving only to reach the top and stick the cold steel into the bodies of its grim defenders.
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SITUATION SUMMARIZED.

Buller's Order for a Night Attack Considered a Last Resort.

BY MILTON V. SNYDER.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.
London, Wednesday, Jan. 23.—(Copyright, 1900, by W. R. Hearst.)—After a most anxious day for the entire British nation, from laborer to Cabinet Minister, the War Office this morning, at quarter past 2, gave out a dispatch from General Buller, which, if not what the British people have been waiting for, had been feared, since the well-known fact that a night attack was being made.

General Warren, it appears, has not been able to make much progress since that day, owing to strength of the Boer intrenchments, but has succeeded in holding the ground which he had won.

Evidently, the situation is perilous, for General Buller, telegraphing at twenty minutes past 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, stated that an attack upon Spion Kop, the center of the Boer position, would be made this night.

By this time, if Sir Roberts's intentions were carried out, the attack has been made, and the British have either struck a decisive blow for the relief of Ladysmith, or have—as was the case with their previous night attacks—been forced back by the rifle fire of the Boer trenches.

The last dispatch, and the admission that General Warren has been unable to gain further ground by the methods employed during the four days' previous fighting and that he has been forced to make a night attack, indicate that General Buller had determined to make a night attack as a last resort.

Before the night attack, rumors flew thick and fast. A great crowd gathered at the War Office only to be told that there was no intelligence to impart. Mr. Balfour was one of the officials who refused to speak.

The reports during the afternoon, which upset the Stock Exchange, to the effect that General Warren had been defeated and had lost two battalions as prisoners, while not believed, had a marked effect upon the nerves of the public.

General Buller's long silence still further heightened the gloom. No news could not be thought of. The British people were waiting for news, and the news should reach here some time this morning.

If the night attack fails, there is no telling how many hours may elapse before the British people are taken into the confidence of the Government.

As to the situation, all the intelligence received in London yesterday came through Boer sources.

From the Boer laager at Ladysmith came the information that there had been an engagement on the Olifants River road, between Pretoria and a British force, estimated at 600 men, and that British fighting had been going on at Spion Kop, where General Buller and Cronje had been posted.

The road to Olifants River passes through Acton Homes, so that the earlier part of a message refers to the action of Saturday, but the reference to a battle at Spion Kop would indicate that on Monday the central point of the Boer position was assaulted.

From General Buller's dispatch, General Warren on Tuesday was holding the same position as that which he gained in the two days previous, so that if an attack was made on Monday it must have failed.

It was General Warren's original intention to make a wide attack from Trenchard's Drift westward, but the progress of his left wing was stopped on reaching the ridge running from Spion Kop toward Acton Homes, which was strongly intrenched by the Boers. As it would have been impossible to secure communications and transport past this ridge, the British general was forced to turn back and begin his series of engagements.

According to General Buller, the Boer position is rather more elevated than his own, and the British are at a disadvantage in the heavy firing, but with what result is not known. According to the latest reports the Boers were holding their position.

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